

MISS JANET GOLDBERG'S CLASS

October 30, 1942
Seventh Period Class

The class was called to order by Miss Goldberg. Then the secretary of the class called the roll. The speakers for the day were Mr. Togo Tanaka and Mr. Joe Masaoka.

Mr. Masaoka opened the discussion by referring to an incident which occurred in Lone Pine. It seemed that two oriental-looking people were seen loitering around in that little town. Immediately, some people knowing that there was a relocation center near Lone Pine became excited and called the police. Soon after that, Manzanar found itself with two Indians on its hands. Apparently this was supposed to break the ice or something.

Mr. Masaoka asked for ideas from the students as to why the evacuation took place. Someone in the class stated that it was largely due to public sentiment that the Japanese were sent out of the Pacific coast areas. He said that the political leaders took up the cry and created the hysteria which lead up to the final event. After that, Mr. Togo Tanaka read excerpts from Colonel Bendtsen's official release of "The Story of the Japanese Evacuation."

Analogy was made of this evacuation with a darkened room in which a person barks his shin on something. One thing which a person could do is to cuss at the situation. Another thing to do is to turn on the light and either remove the obstacle or else go around it to get to the destination. Mr. Masaoka stated that this feud between the Americans who urged the evacuation and the Japanese people was not a sudden affair. It was stated that the roots for this evacuation took shape about twenty years or so ago. Other cases of evacuation were enumerated. He spoke of the lost tribes of Israel, the Germans in Russia (where a half a million were picked up and shipped to Siberia), the Chinese people in Mexico, the Japanese in Canada, and the Okies and Arkies of the middle West.

When the Tolan Fact Finding Committee was formed, Mr. Togo Tanaka testified. Mr. Tanaka spoke a little about that. He said that the arguments saw-sawed a lot of times. One side would say that the only thing to do is to kick the Japanese out. The other side would say that such action would break down the precedent of the Constitution and would make a black place in history. Also, between the two extremes, other people testified. He stated that there were between 20 and 25 ~~per~~ reasons contributing to the evacuation. He said that with the United States suffering set-backs at Manila and Singapore, conditions were not so good. A country losing a war cannot afford to be philanthropic or humanitarian. One argument was that if the Japanese should land parachute troops on the west ~~east~~-coast, would someone try to shelter them?

Someone asked why the German aliens were not evacuated. The answer was that the Japanese are racially different and set apart as stated by Bendetsen and others. It was also added that so far, there has been no answer yet which is acceptable to Mr. Togo Tanaka as well as to others.

It was generally agreed that the Terminal Island affair was a rotten deal.

Mr. Jow Masaoka declared that the reports emanating from Pearl Harbor of possible sabotage cases were absolutely false. He also mentioned Kilsco K. Hahn, paid propagandist for Korea.

Mr. Togo Tanaka declared that there are many groups working to try to take away the American citizenship from the Nisei. These are mostly pressure groups working to attain certain objectives. He also declared that the California Joint Immigration Committee was instrumental in getting various articles in the newspapers. Leland S. Ford also was agitating a great deal against the Japanese.

It was stated that the courts decided that the evacuation was brought about because of military necessity and for protective custody of the Japanese. Mr. Masaoka cited instances where Japanese people were tarred and feathered and stabbed. In Tulare county, about eighteen people were involved. It was pointed out that between December 7, 1941 and March 21, 1942, 145 people were killed. Various sheriffs said that the people were getting out of hand and that they could not guarantee safety for all of the Japanese in their jurisdiction.

After a little more discussion which involved relocation on individual bases, Miss Goldberg took over the class again and at the end of the period, dismissed the class..

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